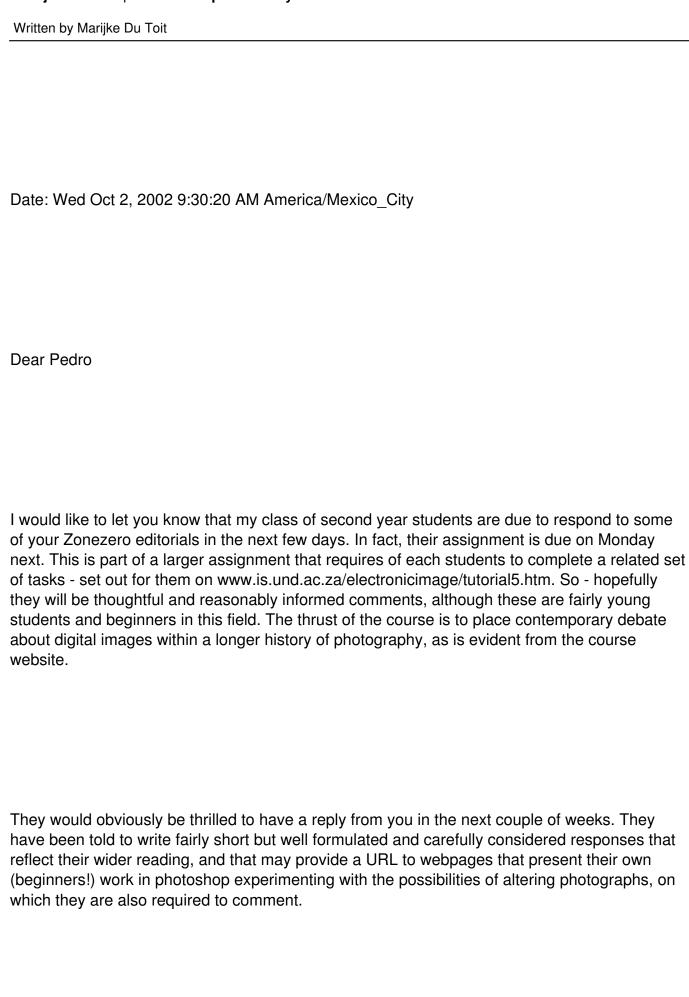
Marijke Du Toit | Student responses to your editorials



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Written by Marijke Du Toit
The course has already asked them to think about what it means to read an image, the ways in which 'pre-digital' photography involved framing and a range of other decisions by photographers, and presenting them with contrasting arguments re the potential or problematic of digital imagery for photojournalism and social documentary. I showed them examples of concious politically motivated editing out of people from photographs in 1930s Russia (The Commissar Vanishes - stalinist Russia) and they have readings about similar USA photomanipulations.
We also considered the playfulness of some Indian popular photography which disregards conventional notions of realism for studio photos, applies ink and paint to photo's in a avariety of ways and wedding collage-type pictures and brings home the extent to which a range of 'manipulations' s predate photoshop. They really enjoyed looking at the photos from Truth and Fictions, especially as they were also busy with Photoshop workshops and learning various techniques of how to combine different photos etc.
After this assignment, their larger research assignment starts and hopefully they'll be finding out and writing interesting things about local (South African) image alteration past and present and about photo's on the net.
warm regards,
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